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cohol, and sulphuric ether, by compressions equivalent to the weight of many atmospheres; and to measure the effects of the heat produced by these compressions." This subject was proposed before, but none of the Essays was considered worthy of the prize. 2. A medal of the same value will be given for "a method of calculating the perturbations of the elliptic motion of comets, applied to the determination of the next return of the comet of 1759, and to the motion of that which has been observed in 1805, 1819, and 1822." 3. Another medal, worth 300 francs, (£12 10) will be given for the best Essay on "*the changes which the circulation of the blood of frogs undergoes in their different metamorphoses!!*" The Memoirs on these subjects must be sent to the Secretary of the Institute before the 1st of Jan. 1826.

IMPORTANT INVENTION.

A person of the name of Roberts, a collier, in England, has invented an apparatus to enable persons to enter, with safety, rooms filled with suffocating smoke. This apparatus consists of a leathern head-piece, which completely covers the head and face of the wearer, and buckles tight round the neck. Before the eyes there is a piece of glass; and opposite to the mouth, is inserted one end of a leathern tube, the other end of which hangs nearly to the ground, and has attached to it a tin funnel, which is filled with moistened sponge. Now, suppose the apparatus to be used in a room on fire, the pure air which enters from without being colder, and consequently heavier, than the air already in the room, remains next the floor, and is thus inhaled through the long tube. It is also freed from impure and gaseous matter, which is stopped or condensed by the water in the sponge; and thus the wearer of the apparatus inhales air which is almost pure. In putting this apparatus to the test of trial, the inventor and another person went into the stove of a foundry in Manchester, in which a quantity of cotton waste mixed with sulphur was burning, so that persons without the apparatus would have been instantly suffocated. Of the two individuals provided with the apparatus, however, one staid in ten minutes, and the other twenty, and came out in safety; and similar experiments have been several times made with equal success. This invention may be of great utility, not only in saving articles in case of fire, but even frequently in affording the means of extinguishing the fire, if it be resorted to before the devouring element has gained a complete ascendancy.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT, FOR MARCH.

THE unusually fine weather, during a great part of the month of February, enabled the farmer to complete his sowing of Wheat, under very favourable circumstances. There seems to be a fair average of ground, under that important crop; and the appearance, both of the early and late sown, is remarkably promising. The first half of the present month was extremely unfavourable for agricultural pursuits; but for some time past, the weather has been very fine, and the sowing of oats is proceeding under the happiest auspices—the seed receiving a dry bed, and the ground harrowing with, what is technically called, a round clod.

This is, unquestionably, the most important season of the year for the agriculturist; as the success of his harvest almost invariably depends upon having his ground sown in *good order*, and with *good seed*. We regret, indeed, to learn, that far too little attention is generally paid to the important article of *seed*. Too many seem to consider that *convenience* and *cheapness* are the principal considerations; and consequently sow what has been growing on their own farms for a series of years; or what they can obtain for the lowest price in their own vicinity, or in the nearest market town. No error can be more fatal to the agricultural prosperity of a country: for, besides diminishing the *quantity* produced, it also deteriorates the *quality* in a very remarkable degree. We have taken pains to converse with several most intelligent farmers, from different parts of the country, upon this subject; and the result of our inquiries has been, that no seed grown upon any farm ought to be sown upon it for more than a *second* crop; and that in changing seed, much care should be taken, to obtain it, both from a soil and climate, differing from those in which it is to be sown. The *quality* of the seed is another most important consideration: *hearty* grain can never be raised from inferior seed. These observations are made, principally as affecting Wheat, Barley, and Oats.

With regard to *Flax-seed* and *Clover-seed*, other considerations mingle with the above. The farmer should not only take great care to obtain a good *quality* of the kind he buys, but he should also be very cautious respecting the *kind* itself. We state it on the authority of most respectable practical agriculturists, both in the counties of Down and Antrim, that in almost all cases, it would be more profitable, in the end, for the farmer to *pay* for Dutch or Riga Flaxseed, than to sow American seed, if it were *bestowed to him*. The same may be said with regard to English Cloverseed, which we know, from experiment, to be superior, both to American and Dutch. We hope these observations may not be altogether unprofitable, at this season of the year.